**Development of NER**

628. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast opportunities relating to manufacturing, agro-based industries, plantation, tourism, infrastructure, etc. existing in the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made both at Government level and private sector level to make suitable investments so that this economic potential could be fully exploited, thus ushering in an era of overall development of this region, priority being given to labour intensive enterprises so that youth of the region could be gainfully employed?

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps to fully realize the economic potential of the North East:

(i) The Central Government has released an amount of Rs. 2979 crore upto February 2005 for the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the North Eastern Region under the scheme of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR).

(ii) Various Central Ministries and Departments have been mandated to earmark and spend a minimum of 10 per cent of their Annual Gross Budgetary Support on the development of North Eastern Region.

(iii) A special Industrial Policy for the North Eastern States was announced by the Central Government on 24.12.1997 for attracting private investment in the North-Eastern region. A number of fiscal and other concessions have been provided under this policy for various sectors like agro-based industries, manufacturing industries, etc.

**Restrictions on movement of foreigners in NER**

629. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed certain restrictions on movement